

Custom House  
State Street at India Street  
Boston  
Suffolk County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-789

HABS  
MASS,  
13- BOST,  
100-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
MASS,  
16-COST,  
100-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Suffolk	TOWN OR VICINITY Boston
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Custom House		HABS NO. MA-789
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) State Street at India Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1837-1847	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Ammi Burham Young	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Built to accomodate commercial activity of Boston, the second largest commercial city in the U.S. at the time. Construction entirely fire-proof.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Designed as a Greek Cross in the Doric style.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Granite		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The intersection of the cross is surmounted by a dome terminating in a sky-light twenty-five feet in diameter. The roof of the building and dome is covered with wrought granite tile.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Rebuilt in 1913-15 by Peabody and Stearns when Young's crowning saucer dome on the octagonal drum gave way to the present office tower. As a federal building this was not bound by the 125 foot height restriction and was in effect, the first skyscraper in Boston.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) <u>Three Centuries of Custom Houses</u> , the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1972, pp. 69-80.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Mary Buckley, Architectural Historian, HABS		DATE June 24, 1983